Queen Anne Cobblestone

The Newsletter of the Queen Anne Historical Society, Seattle, WA

November, 2007

Vanishing Queen Anne

In the September Cobblestone we printed the photo below of an old house with the question, "do you recognize this house?"

The question is increasingly pertinent as buildings vanish around us. The houses in question are at 317 and 319 W. Republican St, in lower Queen Anne.

Photo by Isabel Egglin

They are two of only a handful of remaining houses that once covered the Uptown area. Judging by their looks these two will also vanish before long.

On page three is a photo of another building, this one on Queen Anne Ave. N. at the top of the hill. Do you recognize it? When it is gone, as the land use sign indicates, will you even remember what was there?

The rapidity of change is alarming to preservationists, such as yourselves. There is little we can do in most cases. However, there is something you can do

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2 Ways 2 Save
Our Historic Buildings
Wed. Nov. 28th, 7:30 pm

Two insiders' views of what it takes to preserve some of Seattle's historic buildings will be the subject of this month's meeting of the Queen Anne Historical Society on **Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007** at **7:30 pm, at McClure Middle School,** First Ave. W. and W. Crockett St.

Adaptive reuse of an older building will be discussed by **Maria Barrientos**, of Barrientos LLC. Her Leona Condominium conversion project, now underway at 916 Queen Anne Avenue N., is a prime example of what is possible for a historic building. She will explain the history of this 98-year-old apartment building and describe what it took to get the project through City of Seattle Land Marking and the related Architectural Review Committee processes. Reuse issues include such pesky details as what happens when a retaining wall is found to be unstable.

Finding the right buyer will be discussed by **Chris Moore**, Field Director of Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. Focusing on the Seventh Church of Christ Scientist building at 2555 8th Ave W., he will explain how he found another church interested in acquiring and preserving this 81-year-old architecturally significant building (see page 3).

Please join your neighbors at this fascinating, free public meeting to learn more about the preservation of our historic buildings on Queen Anne.

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007, 7:30 pm
McClure Middle School Library
First Ave. W. and W. Crockett St.

Contact Char Eggleston for more information, 2206-378-1618.

Leona Condominiums, undergoing extensive remodeling at 916 QA Ave. N.

Membership Notice

By now you should have renewed your annual membership for the Society's 2007-08 year. Your mailing label on page 4 shows the year your current membership expires, "2007EXP" means your membership expired May 31st of 2007. **Please use the coupon on page 3 and renew now—this will be your last mailing.** We've been busy this past year...and need your membership to keep our heritage efforts moving. *To learn more, call our new Membership Chair, Holly Smith, 206-282-7515 (holly@qahistory.org)*

how to contact us:
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Seattle, WA 98109-1432

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The Archives of the Society are located in Bayview Manor, 11 W. Aloha St., Seattle, WA 98119

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Calendar of Events

Wed. Nov. 28, 2007
*Program: "*2 Ways 2 Save Historic Buildings", by Maria Barrientos and Chris Moore. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free. (See story page 1)

Dec., 2007
Event: Annual "Crown of Lights" Contest. QAHS holiday lighting contest with prizes for best decorated residences on and off the "Boulevard."

Wed. Jan. 23, 2008
Program: To be announced. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free.

Wed. Mar. 26, 2008
Program: To be announced. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free.

St. Anne Eighth Graders Walk Through History

Twenty-four St. Anne eighth graders discovered recently that the local history they have studied is permanently memorialized in the grave sites at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery on Queen Anne. To do this, **Pam Sturgeon**, St. Anne eighth grade teacher, arranged with **Isabel Egglin**, Queen Anne Historical Society school and community liaison, to give the class a tour of the historical cemetery at 7th Ave. W. and W. Raye St., in order to put some reality into their studies.

On a cool, damp Wednesday morning, November 7th, the students, some parents and four historical society guides walked the cemetery grounds telling stories of northwest figures. One of these was Nathan Eckstein, who left home at 15 to come to America, ending up in Seattle where he was eventually named "Seattle's Most Useful Citizen", chaired the Seattle School Board and today has a school named after him.

Northwest tragedies were marked in stone with stories of the Valencia shipwreck in 1906 off Vancouver Island, resulting in 136 deaths, the Wellington railroad avalanche of 1910 at Stevens Pass and the Everett Massacre of 1916. The students spoke of what they had learned in their own studies, shyly at first and then with increasing confidence. The Historical Society's goal, according to Egglin, "was to help the students see that today's community is the result of the lives of many people like themselves, that we all are creating history."

St. Anne 8th Graders at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.
Photo by Isabel Egglin

The Queen Anne Historical Society gives an annual public tour of the cemetery in June, thanks to the support of Mt. Pleasant owners Bill and Loretta Edwards. For information on future tours, see www.qahistory.org.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Queen Anne Historical Society is to record and preserve, in permanent form, the history of the settling of the Queen Anne community and to develop within the community an appreciation and concern for its history and its historical sites.

Heritage News

New Water Tower Rises

The historic Queen Anne water towers are gone, but a new and bigger water tower is rising. The new tower has been assembled and preparation for painting is underway. The painting will take two or three months, both inside and out.

A new Queen Anne water tower is in work at the old Observatory Park at Warren Ave. N. and Lee St.

The new pump station will be installed below the tennis court at 1st Ave. N. and Lee St. Work has not yet started on it.

The two old tanks had a combined capacity of 1.2 million gallons. The new tank capacity is 2 million gallons. The new system will be seismically sound and provides for a much larger population.

The whole project is planned to be completed by the coming summer.

Crown of Lights Returns for 21st Year

Each year, since about 1987, the Queen Anne Historical Society has conducted a holiday lighting contest, called the "Crown of Lights". A group of judges tours the hill, viewing houses for the best display.

Judges are recruited from various local organizations. Prizes are given for the best display on the historic Queen Anne Boulevard and another for houses "off-the-Boulevard."

This year's judging will be on the evenings of Dec. 18 or 19, depending on schedules. The contest is a light-hearted effort to promote the boulevard and generate community spirit.

Prize money has again been provided by the **Greater Queen Anne Chamber of Commerce**. Results will be published in the **Queen Anne News.**

If you wish the judges to look at your holiday display, please leave your name and address at 206-284-2266 or send a message to—*help@qahistory.org*.

Seventh Church of Christ Scientist Building Again in Use

In the last issue of the Cobblestone we talked about how this lovely historic building was saved. The Harlan Thomas designed Seventh Church building was opened in 1926.

Today it is the new home of the Seattle Church of Christ. A festive open house on Sunday, Oct. 14, introduced many neighbors and preservationists to the old building and its new occupants.

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, in their Fall newsletter, tells the story of how the church was saved. In particular, they single out **Char Eggleston** of our society for special mention for her countless hours spent talking to interested parties and following the permitting process. **Leanne Olsen**, who wrote the detailed summary in our last newsletter, has been a constant participant in this effort.

(Continued from page 1)

this week that will be of great value to those who come after us. **You can start photographing the blocks around where you live!**

When we put together the history book in 1991-93, we found a great shortage of historic photos of Queen Anne from its earlier years. Perhaps your photos will be the basis for another book, 50 years from now.

Soon to vanish is this office building at the NW corner of QA Ave. N. and W. Crockett St.

Take some shots, make a few good quality prints, and clearly identify each picture (address, date, your name & telephone). Donate these records to the Society for our archives.

You can start by picturing your own house and the intersection near where you live. Maybe some blocks where you regularly walk. None of us know what will interest a QA historian in 2050. Pay it forward.

Call 206-284-2266 if you have questions.

Yes, I want to join the Queen Anne Historical Society in preserving our community's heritage and promoting the public's understanding of its past.

Name _____ Tel. _____

Address_____

City _____, State _____ Zip_____

E-mail _____

Member Category: (check one)

___ Individual	$15	___ Patron	$50 - $199
___ Family	$20	___ Benefactor	$200 & up
___ Student/Senior	$8	___ Contribution only, $_____	

___ I would like to become active in the Society.

The QAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are deductible to the extent permitted by Federal law.

Return with payment to: *Queen Anne Historical Society, PO Box 19432, Seattle, WA 98109-1432*

I want to order the Society's book, *Queen Anne—Community on the Hill*.

I understand that mailing costs will be added.

Prices are:

Soft cover: $25
($20 for members)
Hard cover: $45
($40 for members)

Please send me the following:

Soft cover qty:____

Soft cover cost: $_____

Hard cover qty:____

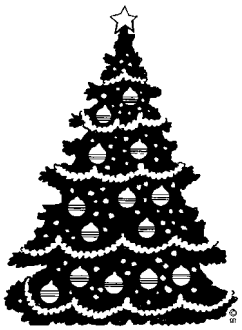
Hard cover cost: $_____

Mailing costs at $3/book: _____

Total Cost: $_____

Queen Anne Historical Society
PO Box 19432
Seattle, WA 98109-1432

***Coming up*: 2 Ways 2 Save our historic buildings. Come to the Wed. Nov. 28th general meeting at McClure at 7:30 pm. Story page 1.**



Happy Holidays to all, from your friends at the Queen Anne Historical Society.

Kim's Musings

Portland Discoveries

Having just returned from Portland, Oregon, I have some interesting comparisons to share regarding preservation in Seattle and Portland. Portland is in the midst of a massive growth in condominiums, as is Seattle. Portland has already finished over 10,000 units, with another 5,000 in the works. The difference between the two cities is that in Portland, these new units are being constructed in a former industrial area to the west of the Union Amtrak Station. In Seattle, solid, comfortable single family dwellings are being torn down and condominiums and town houses are being erected in their places.

Fortunately, many of those condos in Seattle are not on Queen Anne Hill, but some are, and the threat of a massive change to our neighborhood is going to remain. I would not mind the new addition to the Hill if they were less tacky and better constructed. As a book collector, I don't think my personal library would be able to be housed in most of the new construction, because the buildings are not strongly made. The very nature of current building materials seems to proscribe the weight which large numbers of books would bring to the new structures. If one were a pianist, would a grand piano have to be replaced with an electronic piano? This is why it is necessary to resist changes which will eliminate the solid, comfortable homes of the previous centuries.

What is the point? Just that in Portland, historic and older houses are better protected from devastation by real estate developers, and that new housing is being generated without disrupting the already residential neighborhoods. This is particularly noticeable in the downtown core of Portland, where older buildings co-exist with newer ones in a more harmonious pattern. Portland is not as limited by the bodies of water which affect Seattle's growth and development—it has a 25-mile boundary in all directions from the center. They have incorporated surrounding communities without taking away the individuality of each of those entities.

The fact that we, as members of a beautiful neighborhood, can band together in attempts to preserve the best of what is on the hill speaks for our commitment to our goals of collecting the history of the hill, and sharing it in as many ways as possible within and outside the community. We still have a ways to go. In America's current rush to greed, the past is often ignored or overlooked, both in what good came from it, and what benefits it can give to each new generation.

I wish the best of things for each and all of you to be thankful for on the upcoming Thanksgiving Day, and the best of December holiday seasons to follow. Let's hope that sometime good will toward men will truly prevail all over the world, and that we learn from the mistakes of others, not continue to make them.

Kim R. Turner, Researcher, QAHS

Isn't it time you became more involved with the Queen Anne Historical Society?
Join the Board of Trustees! Help out in the archives! Call John Hennes at (206) 284-2266 for more details about how you can share in making and keeping Queen Anne's history.